

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An interconnect apparatus comprising:

a wearable garment (2) having a body structure; and
at least one interconnect element (12) having a button hole opening (10) defined by an outer ring (11), the outer ring (11) having at least one electrically conductive contact portion (11a) wherein ~~said the~~ interconnect element (12) is coupled to a fabric circuit (4) integrated in ~~said the~~ garment (2) via the at least one electrically conductive contact portion (11a) of the outer ring (11); and
..... a button connector having at least one electrically conductive contact portion, the button connector having a shape adapted to be releasably coupled, physically and electrically, to respective at least one electrically conductive contact portion of the outer ring of the interconnect element.

2. (cancelled).

3. (currently amended) The interconnect apparatus of Claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ button connector ~~further comprises~~ has a cable (16) extending therefrom.

4. (currently amended) The interconnect apparatus of Claim 3, wherein ~~said the~~ cable (16) serves as a coupling to an electronic device (14).

5. (currently amended) The interconnect apparatus of Claim 3, wherein ~~said the~~ cable (16) serves as a coupling to a power source (14).

6. (currently amended) The interconnect apparatus of Claim 2, wherein ~~said the~~ interconnect element ~~(12)~~ is mounted on the outer surface of ~~said the~~ garment ~~(2)~~ for engaging and supporting units ancillary to transmitting electronic signals.

7. (currently amended) An interconnect apparatus comprising:

a wearable garment ~~(2)~~ having a body structure;
at least one interconnect element ~~(12)~~ having a button hole opening ~~(10)~~ defined by an outer ring ~~(11)~~, the outer ring ~~(11)~~ having at least one electrically conductive contact portion ~~(11a)~~ coupled to a first fabric circuit ~~(4)~~ integrated in a first layer of ~~said the~~ garment ~~(2)~~; and,

a button connecting element ~~(20)~~ having at least one electrically conductive contact portion ~~(20a)~~ coupled to a second fabric circuit ~~(4)~~ integrated in a second layer of ~~said the~~ garment ~~(2)~~,

wherein ~~said the~~ interconnect element ~~(12)~~ engages the button connecting element via a releasable locking action with button hole opening ~~(10)~~ defined by outer ring ~~(11)~~ so that the respective conductive contact portions ~~(11a, 20a)~~ come in contact electrically.

8. (currently amended) The interconnect apparatus of Claim 7, wherein ~~said the~~ first and second fabric circuits ~~(4)~~ are coupled to a signaling device ~~(14)~~.

9. (currently amended) The interconnect apparatus of Claim 7, wherein ~~said the~~ first and second fabric circuits ~~(4)~~ are coupled to electronic devices integrated in the body structure of ~~said the~~ garment.

10. (currently amended) The interconnect apparatus of Claim 7, wherein ~~said the~~ button connecting element ~~(20)~~ is a button having two separate electrically conductive portions, and wherein the outer ring ~~(11)~~ has two separate electrically conductive contact

portions, wherein a respective one of the electrically conductive portions of each of the button connecting element and the outer ring come in contact electrically in response to the interconnect element engaging the button connecting element via the releasable locking action.

11. (currently amended) A method for permitting a person to activate an electronic device conveniently, ~~said~~the method comprising the steps of:

- attaching at least one fabric circuit (4) in a wearable garment (2);
- mounting an interconnect device (12) having a button hole opening (10) defined by an outer ring (11), the outer ring (11) having at least one conductive contact portion (11a) to ~~said~~the wearable garment;
- dressing ~~said~~the person in ~~said~~the wearable garment (2); and,
- selectively coupling a button connector (20, 40) having at least one conductive contact portion (20a, 40a) to ~~said~~the interconnect device (12) via the at least one electrically conductive contact portion (11a) of the outer ring (11) to serve as a coupling to an electronic device (14) or a power source.

12. (currently amended) A method for permitting a person to activate an electronic device conveniently, ~~said~~the method comprising the steps of:

- attaching at least one fabric circuit (4) in a first layer and a second layer of a wearable garment (2);
- mounting an interconnect device (12) to the first layer of ~~said~~the wearable garment (2), the interconnect device having a button hole opening (10) defined by an outer ring (11), the outer ring (11) having at least one conductive contact portion (11a) electrically coupled to a conductive track of the first layer of ~~said~~the wearable garment (2);
- mounting a button connector (20, 40) to the second layer of ~~said~~the wearable garment (2), the button connector having at least one conductive contact portion (20a,

~~40a)~~ electrically coupled to a conductive track of the second layer of ~~said~~the wearable garment ~~(2)~~;

 dressing ~~said~~the person in ~~said~~the wearable garment ~~(2)~~; and,

 enclosing the two layers of ~~said~~the wearable garment ~~(2)~~ by engaging ~~said~~the button connector ~~(20, 40)~~ to ~~said~~the interconnect device ~~(12)~~ via the at least one electrically conductive contact portion ~~(11a)~~ of the outer ring ~~(11)~~ so that the respective conductive contact portions ~~(11a, 20a, 40a)~~ come in contact electrically.